



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CITY OF ORONOGO \$2,745,000 FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$2,745,000 to the City of Oronogo during a ceremony held on November 1, 2005, at the City Hall. The USDA, Rural Development loan and grant funds will be used to upgrade the City's water system with a new water storage tank, a new well, and upgrade water distribution lines. These improvements will continue to provide adequate water supply, storage, and improve water pressure for the current residents and additional homes and businesses as the city continues to grow.



Left to Right: Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director; Mayor Millie West; Kavan Stull, Council Member; Chris Erisman, Allgeier Martin & Associates, Inc. Project Engineer; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for Congressman Blunt; Bruce Hively, Rural Development Area Specialist; Jim Hembree, Rural Development Manager; Gregory Branum, Missouri Rural Development State Director

"Improving water quality in Missouri is a top priority," said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "This funding will help improve the area's water infrastructure system. I've been working with local water quality organizations to find long term solutions to protect our water resources and we will continue working in the Senate to provide additional resources for water quality improvements in Southwest Missouri."

Congressman Roy Blunt said, "The problem-solving partnership between Rural Development and small communities has led to many improvements in rural America. Water distribution and water treatment projects for many small towns and villages like Oronogo would not be affordable without the assistance of Rural Development. These projects, funded with federal loans and voter-approved revenue bonds, improve the quality of life for the growing number of people who reside in those communities. These efforts are vital to economic expansion in rural America."

Mayor Mildred West stated, "On behalf of the City of Oronogo, I want to express our appreciation to all parties involved in making this happen. It is only with the help of USDA Rural Development that small communities such as Oronogo have the opportunity to upgrade our utilities. We appreciate the support of our elected Senators and US Representative that make these programs possible. Again, I want to say thank you."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities." Branum added, "Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and

Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce Hively, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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